

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

February 14, 2001 LB 791

CLERK: (Record vote, Legislative Journal page 664.) 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of the confirmation report.

SENATOR COORDSEN: The confirmation report is approved. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, General File, LB 791, a bill by Senator Janssen. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 17 of this year, referred to General Affairs. The bill was advanced to General File. I have no amendments at this time, Mr. President.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Janssen, to open on LB 791.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you. Senator Coordsen, members of the Legislature. LB 791 is designed to address the problem of the declining revenues going to the charities from the state lottery. Three years after the lottery began, sales have been steadily declining, due mostly, as we all know, to the boats in Iowa. As a result, the three charities that receive the money from the lottery--the Environmental Trust, and Excellence in Education, and the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance--have had to do with less dollars. This addresses the problem by providing the charities with a guaranteed minimum amount, while freeing up the mandatory percentage going to them. This will allow the lottery to increase the prize payouts; thus, giving more money back to the players. It is thought that the current player will play more often since he or she is getting more money back for their play, which in turn will increase the revenues. This is...this same situation has been accomplished in other states with success, I might add, and I would like to see the lottery stop the downward side, what we're...we're going down the slippery slope right now, that charities would continue to get less every year as they have since 1996. With that, I would like to answer...or I will answer any questions that anyone may have, or attempt to do so. I look forward to the passage of this bill, and actually what happens is the lotteries...the amount that goes into this trust fund will be...goes from